HERITAGE
A MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN FOLK LORE
AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE GROUP
MARGOT MAYO,
Leader.

Vol. III No. 1.

"PROMENADE"

Official organ of the American Square-Dance Group. "The purpose of the American Square-Dance Group shall be to make available those rich stores of native dance, music, drama and general Americana which together comprise American folk culture; to conduct such activities without regard for race, creed, color or social position; to cooperate with all who entertain similar views."

- A.S.-D.G. Constitution

"Promenade" is published monthly with one special Summer Edition

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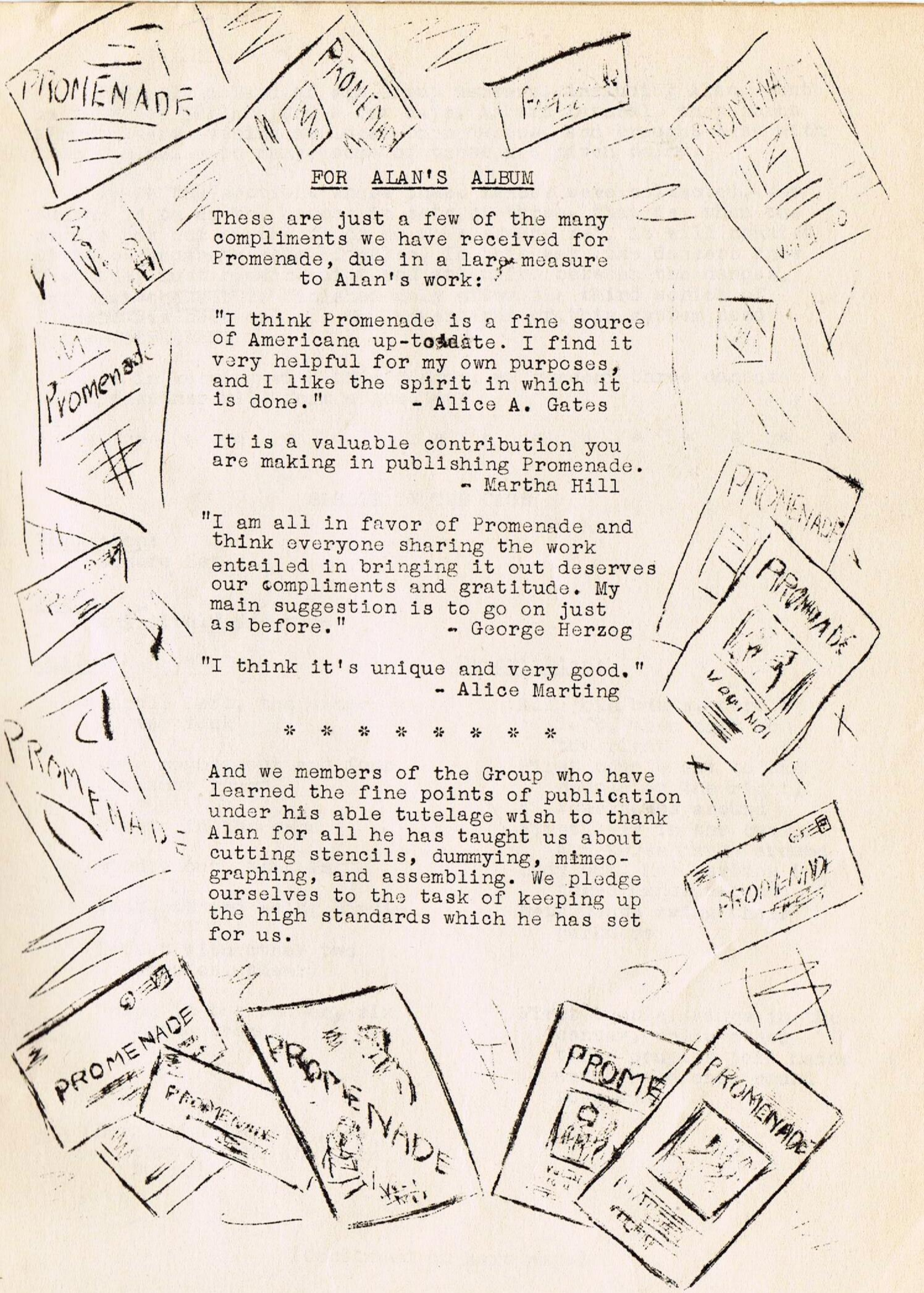
Writing this editorial is certainly one of the most difficult jobs I've ever had to tackle for Promenade. For this is by way of dedicating this issue to Alan Swartz, whithout whose enthusiasm and energy Promenade would never have come into existence. Alan has packed up his tremendous vitality, his laughter, his various talents (not to mention his five-string banjo), and departed to trade his AS-DG costume for an Army pilot's uniform. We are not worried about how Alan will adjust himself to his new life, or whether or not he'll make good. We know he will, for he will throw himself into this new world with all the force and enthusiasm with which he plunged headlong into the field of folk-lore.

We are only sorry for ourselves, and we wonder how we can ever get along without him. Alan has made a place for himself in our Group which can never be filled by anyone else. Alan is Alan, and, if this weren't a dedication, I might add in parenthesis, (thank Heavens!) - but since this is a dedication, I shan't say it.

When we think of Alan, we think of singing and dancing and laughter and a five-string banjo. These are the qualities which Alan has associated with himself, and by means of which he has made himself so beloved by the Group. With this in mind, we say, "Good luck, take care of yourself, be good, and Keep 'Em Flying!"

But as we thank Alan for his encouragement, his enthusiasm, for the laughter, for the quarrels, for all the fun we've had, for for the many rehearsals and demonstrations, for all his splendid work on Promenade, we know that he'll be doing more than Keeping 'Em Flying - Keep 'Em Singing, Alan - Keep 'Em Laughing!

Margot



FOR ALAN'S ALBUM

These are just a few of the many compliments we have received for Promenade, due in a large measure to Alan's work:

"I think Promenade is a fine source of Americana up-to-date. I find it very helpful for my own purposes, and I like the spirit in which it is done." - Alice A. Gates

It is a valuable contribution you are making in publishing Promenade.
- Martha Hill

"I am all in favor of Promenade and think everyone sharing the work entailed in bringing it out deserves our compliments and gratitude. My main suggestion is to go on just as before." - George Herzog

"I think it's unique and very good."
- Alice Marting

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And we members of the Group who have learned the fine points of publication under his able tutelage wish to thank Alan for all he has taught us about cutting stencils, dummying, mimeographing, and assembling. We pledge ourselves to the task of keeping up the high standards which he has set for us.

Recently a band of six Group members, including Alan, went up into New England for a few days. As was natural, they spent almost every evening at local barn dances, and brought back with them the calls to many; some of these are given below.

Up in the sections where these dances were collected, the custom is to do the dances in sets of three, that is, when the people get out on the floor to do a square set, it will consist of three separate sets of calls. In this way, the dancers know that they must remain quiet and attentive between the dances, and that the set is finished only after the third series of figures has been called. The advantages of this system need not be stressed.

So in keeping with this custom, we present three dances which together will form a good set.

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BIRDIE IN THE CAGE

Formation:
Square Set

Music:
Any lively 4/4 tune

Calls:	Description:
Circle Left, the other way back	All join hands, circle left, then back to the right
Head couple out and four hands round	First couple out to the couple on the right, four hands around
Birdie in the cage	First lady in the center, and three hands around
Birdie out, Gent in	Lady out, her partner in, three hands around
Gent out and swing Birdie	Both Gents swing their partners
(Repeat with other two couples, then:)	
Swing in the center, six hands around	First couple swings in the center, while other three couples join hands and circle once round to place.
(Each other couple goes through the above in turn.)	

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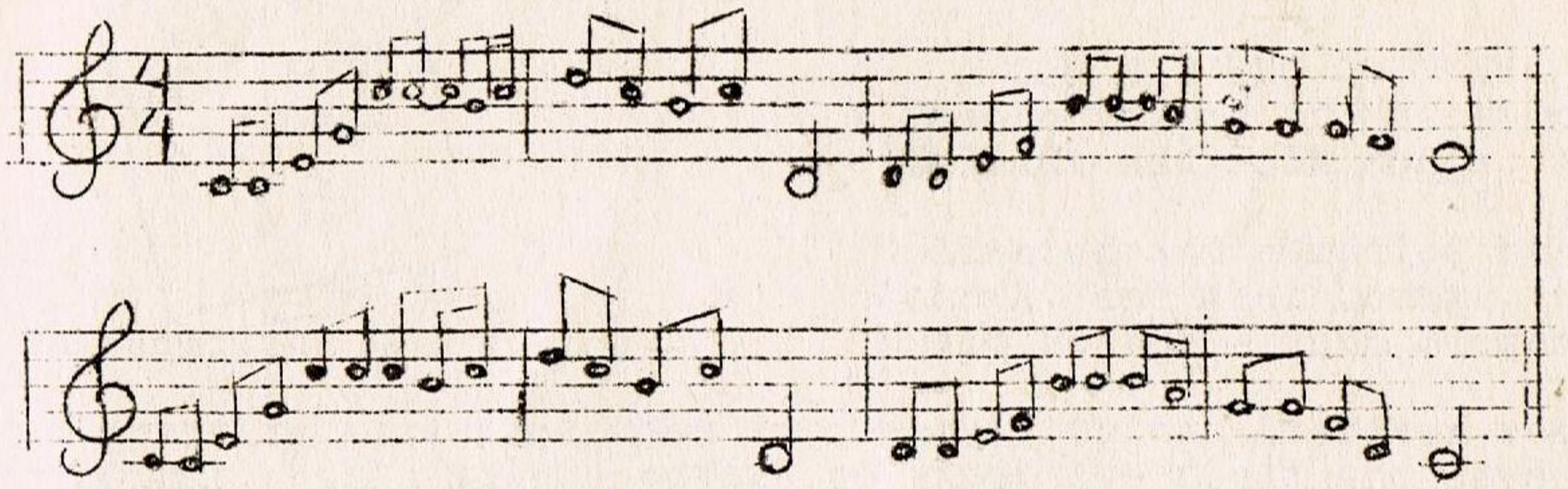
RIGHT-HAND STAR
collected by Alan et al in New Milford, Conn.



Calls:	Description:
Grand Right and Left	Right to partner, walk by her, left hand to next lady, and so on around the set, until back to place.
Eight hands forwards and back	All join hands, walk to center of set, back to place
Ladies to center with a right hand over	Four ladies join right hands, walk around to the left
Left hand back	Ladies turn round, join left hands, walk to the right.
Gents hook on, Promenade to place	As ladies pass gents, gents join right hands with ladies' rights
Swing Corner lady	Each gent swings the lady behind him
(Repeat four times)	

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BUFFALO GALS
Any lively 4/4 tune

Calls	Description
Honor partners, corners	All bow to partners, then corners
First lady out with a right-hand round	First lady turns second gent with a right hand
Then her own with a left-hand round	She turns her partner with a left hand
(Repeat with the next two gents in turn)	
Lady in the center, seven hands round	First lady in the center, and the other circle round her
Allemande Left	Walk all around corner withaa left hand
Grand right and left	See above
Next, the gent repeats the above, except that he swings his lady in the center, and six hands round.	
End by all honoring partners.	

) OUR SINGING COUNTRY
A Second Volume of American
Ballads and Folk Songs

Collected and compiled by
John A. and Alan Lomax
Music Editor - Ruth Seeger

The Macmillan Co. N.Y. 1941

Arriving at a time when interest in things American reaches its height, this volume covers an extensive field and leads us to further appreciate the vastness and depth of our American folk heritage. For the the Lomaxes have looked for folk songs that are still being sung all over our country. Gradually the ancient French, English, and Spanish ballads are being changed and supplanted to fit the needs of the people. The Negroes on the rock-pile singing their blues and "hollers", the lumbermen in Michigan, the miners in western Kentucky, the square-dancers in the hills of our country - from these the Lomaxes have gathered their songs.

Whether you are already experienced in the field, or whether this will serve as an introduction to folk music, "Our Singing Country" will be a welcome addition to your book-shelf. The Lomaxes are well-known in the field of folk music as the collectors for the Archives of the Library of Congress.

In order to compile this authoratative volume, of equal value to both the connoisseur and the novice in the field of collecting folk songs, the Lomaxes have recorded, upon a portabale recording apparatus, thousands of songs as sung by the originators or performers themselves. This has enabled them to set down accurately each shade of inflection, each one of the many little variations which distinguish the particular singer's rendition. The recordings were played by the authors in the attic of the Library of Congress as they chose the relatively few songs which could be included in the volume. Since almost every one was fit to hold a place in this anthology, it was up to the music editor, Ruth Seeger, to decide which music could be transcribed by conventional musical notation.

As these recordings were played off, Aunt Molly Jackson and Huddy Leadbetter, both of them old friends of the group (ASDG), listened and gave their opinions and comments. These were copied down and employed as a running commentary to lend the book the continuity which it would otherwise lack. And Aunt Molly's cryptic remarks and "Leadbelly's" stories are far worthier of these songs than any more prosaic style could be.

There are, in addition to the copious bibliography, which covers a host of related topics, complete notes as to where, when, how, why, and by whom each song was sung, references for each song as to similar ones in other books, and a table of contents which shows and earnest attempt to provide pictures of every phase of American life through song.

Both as a reference book and as one from which [illegible]

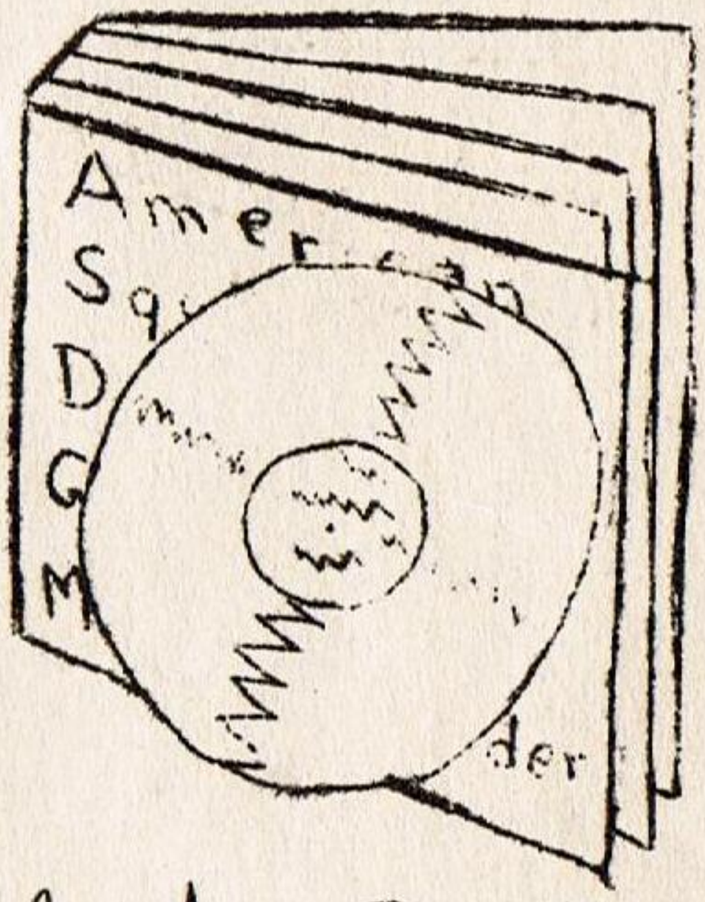
NOTES OF INTEREST

The Group is glad to have Chuck Neviasky back with us for a month's furlough. Chuck is a charter member of the Group, and, while out in Nebraska recently, he formed his own group and sent in some dances which were published in Promenade. Welcome Home, Chuck!

On Sunday, January 11, our old friend, Aunt Molly Jackson, was Guest of Honor at a party given for her by the Almanac Singers. Other friends of the Group who helped the celebration along were Leadbelly, Josh White, Elie Siegmeister, Earl Robinson, Richard Dyer-Bennet, and Burl Ives.

The "Musical Souvenirs" program on WNYC at 4 P.M. every weekday is devoting its Wednesday hour to recordings of American folk songs. This is a fine chance to hear your favorites, and just to make sure they don't cut the program off the air for want of audience support, why not drop a line to the station telling them how much you enjoy programs of folk music?

EXTRA



You can now get the first album of A.S.D.G. records at your music dealer. This album contains running-set figures and the explanatory booklet makes them swell for old-timers and beginners alike. Ask for them at your music shop.